Safety is a ‘One NASA’ endeavor

By Manny Skora
Langley Research Center

The investigation of the *Columbia* tragedy revealed the need for NASA to improve its ability to verify engineering and safety standards; share technical information, practices and talent; and independently assess the ability to achieve mission success.

To this end, Administrator Sean O’Keefe in July announced the establishment of the NASA Engineering and Safety Center (NESC). As chartered, the NESC will provide independent technical expertise to evaluate problems and supplement safety and engineering activities for Agency programs and projects.

That’s a big order. It’s also a stimulating One NASA opportunity.

“The NESC will draw on the engineering talents of the best minds across the Agency’s 10 field centers,” Langley Director Roy D. Bridges, Jr., said.

Administrator O’Keefe has tasked Bridges with the development and start-up of the NESC.

“Roy’s experience as an aviator and Shuttle pilot and his intimate knowledge of the intricate Shuttle system and other advanced aerospace systems make him the right person to lead this critical initiative,” said O’Keefe.

The NESC will take policy direction from Bryan O’Connor, Associate Administrator for the Office of Safety and Mission Assurance.

“In addition to NASA expertise, the NESC will also tap the nation’s top experts in industry, Department of Defense, national laboratories and universities,” O’Connor said. “We have a responsibility to make our programs as safe and reliable as we know how. The NESC enables us to more completely fulfill our commitments for assessing risk and making better risk-acceptance decisions.”

What the NESC is and is not

The NESC will provide centralized management of independent engineering assessment. NESC experts will use state-of-the-art tools and methods and will have the benefit of adequate funding to perform truly independent assessments and trend analysis. Because NASA will fund the NESC at the corporate level, an unprecedented level of independence will exist.

The NESC does not relieve program managers from their responsibility for safety. Instead, NESC initiatives will complement the engineering and safety efforts of programs and centers. The NESC’s credibility and its independent chain of command will assure consideration of all points of view on complex technical issues.

It’s a tremendous responsibility but a stimulating opportunity.

How can you help?

The NESC will be based at the Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va., and will have a management office consisting of approximately 30-40 full-time employees.

Another 30-50 senior engineering and safety experts will be located at the centers but assigned full-time to the NESC. This workforce will be supplemented through partnerships with external organizations.

Finally, “ready-experts” at each field center will be a vital part of the team. From across the Agency, 150-200 experts in a variety of technical specialties will be called upon for peer review and critique of flight rationale, mission requirements, testing, trending, lessons learned and the like.

Bridges has chosen Ralph Roe as his special assistant to develop the NESC’s implementation plan. Roe, the former manager of the Space Shuttle Vehicle Engineering Office at Johnson Space Center, will assist in the development of new Agency safety initiatives.

“It’s a tremendous responsibility but a stimulating opportunity,” said Roe. “While the NESC is one of several initiatives in returning the Shuttle to safe flight, its broader objectives include strengthening and expanding the Agency’s safety, mission assurance and engineering disciplines for major NASA programs. The NESC is a One NASA effort that will involve all NASA facilities and the top technical experts in NASA and our partner institutions.”

What do you have to offer the NESC?

The NESC is currently seeking the Agency’s best talent to be a part of this important NASA endeavor. If you are intrigued by this career opportunity, visit http://nesc.nasa.gov

Langley Director Roy D. Bridges, Jr., has been charged with the development and start-up of the NASA Engineering and Safety Center. Bridges counts this Agencywide initiative as his first priority.

NESC3 Courtesy of NASA Langley Research Center

Bridges (right) selected Ralph Roe, formerly with JSC’s Space Shuttle Vehicle Engineering Office, as his special assistant to manage the implementation of the NASA Engineering and Safety Center.

NESC4 Courtesy of NASA Langley Research Center

NASA's Corporate College Recruitment Initiative seeks to replenish workforce

By Julie Burt

In five years, 25 percent of NASA's technical team will be eligible for retirement. That's approximately 2,850 scientists and engineers.

Now is not only the time to inspire the next generation of explorers, it is time to put them to work. With this premise, NASA began its Corporate College Recruitment Initiative this fall.

The Agency is visiting colleges and universities that meet the following profile:

- Large population of students studying in critical "at-risk" competency areas
- Schools receiving NASA research and grant money
- Schools listed among the top 10 in science and engineering as reported by U.S. News & World Report's 2003 edition
- Schools designated by the Department of Education as Minority-Serving Institutions

JSC's at-risk competencies are:

Systems Engineering
Mission Assurance
Design and Development Engineering
Business Management
Mission Execution

At-risk competencies at other NASA centers are:

Testing Engineering
Human Factors
Nuclear Engineering
Integration Engineering
Quality Engineering and Assurance

Lead centers sponsor a one- or two-day campaign at targeted colleges and universities. The purpose is threefold: awareness, relationship building and hiring.

A coordinated effort among Johnson Space Center's Office of Education, Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Management Programs and Office of Human Resources will accomplish many tasks:

- Meeting with faculty to raise awareness of the opportunities NASA offers for research
- Visiting with student organizations and campus officials to identify ways to increase minority, women and individuals with disabilities' interest in NASA
- Informing students of education and employment opportunities

These events serve to create a larger, more diverse applicant pool while furthering partnerships NASA has with these schools in the form of funded research and grant money.

Teams are on hand to help a faculty member who wants to do NASA-funded research, a student who wants to do an experiment on the KC-135 or a student who is entering a technical field and wants to be a cooperative education student or work for NASA right out of school.

These teams are made up of human resources personnel, technical experts and equal-opportunity representatives. They can answer questions and get the interested person pointed in the right direction.

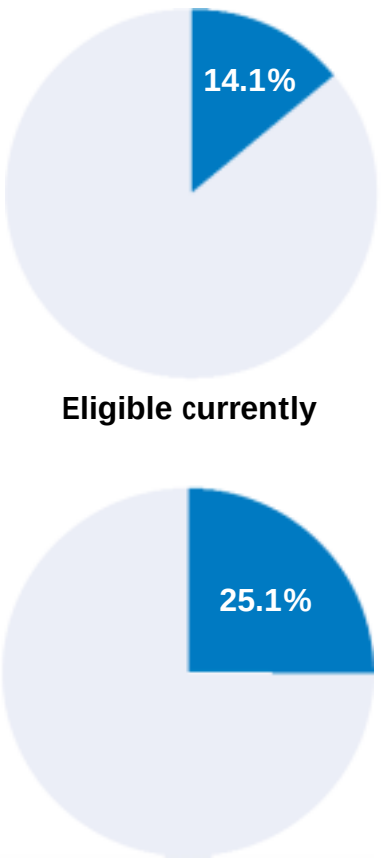
NASA Headquarters is providing 150 slots this year for fresh-outs hired during the Corporate College Recruitment Initiative. They must be graduating in majors that support the areas that have been identified as at-risk because of predicted attrition and retirement rates. Hiring will be through the Federal Intern Program on two-year excepted appointments and will be eligible for noncompetitive conversion upon completion of the initial appointment.

JSC was the lead center for visits to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Pennsylvania State University. JSC also participated in corporate events at Northwestern University, the University of Puerto Rico and Clark Atlanta University.

A trip to the University of Texas-El Paso is scheduled for November. This event will combine a visit with New Mexico State University, the University of Texas at Brownsville and New Mexico Highlands. Another potential visit will be at Texas Southern University in Houston in the coming months. These visits are in addition to the regularly scheduled college recruiting that occurs every semester.

For more information about JSC's involvement or general questions about the Corporate College Recruitment Initiative, contact Bob Musgrove at Robert.P.Musgrove@nasa.gov or (281) 483-3065, or Anne Roemer at Anne.E.Roemer@nasa.gov or (281) 483-2929.

In the meantime, watch for new faces on-site and help welcome the next generation of NASA employees.



Currently, 14.1 percent of NASA's scientists and engineers are eligible for retirement. By Fiscal Year 2008, that number jumps to 25.1 percent. Because of this, the Agency is increasing its recruitment efforts.

The following are institutions that NASA will visit as part of the Corporate College Recruitment Initiative:

MINORITY INSTITUTIONS

Clark Atlanta University
Morgan State University
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
Tuskegee University
University of Puerto Rico – Mayaguez
University of Texas at El Paso / New Mexico State University

MAJORITY INSTITUTIONS

Cornell University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Northwestern University
Pennsylvania State University
Princeton University
Renssalaer Polytechnic Institute
Syracuse University
University of California at Berkeley

JSC PEOPLE *Profiles*

There is a wide range of people who work at Johnson Space Center and contribute to the NASA Vision. The following profiles focus on some of the wonderful people who help keep the Center looking great. Please take a moment to read more about these devoted members of the NASA family.

Thornton Lewis

Company: Wackenhut Corporation
Title: Security Officer
Length of time at JSC: 34 years
Hometown: Texas City, Texas

What do you love most about your job? I love the people and the action. I also think that the security team is like a family, and I like working with them. We are all just like a big family.

What do you want people to know about you? I was there when the first Apollo mission landed on the Moon. I was stationed at the door of Mission Control. I made sure that no one got into Mission Control who wasn't officially supposed to be there. It was a huge moment in history for the entire world. I saw it all up on the big screen. It was incredible.

How do you contribute to NASA? I try to make everyone feel good and comfortable when they enter the gates and still do my job as a security officer.

Anything else you want people to know? I will have been married for 30 years in October.

Mervin Overton

Company: Diamond Group
Title: Security Officer
Length of time at JSC: 21 years
Hometown: Greensburg, La.

What do you love most about your job? I love coming out here and making sure people coming into work are happy. A big smile can change a person's whole day.

What do you want people to know about you? I wish people knew I was nice and good to get along with. I also want people who work here to know that there is a lot to see at Johnson Space Center on site that they may not know about. Things like the Saturn V rocket and Moon rocks. Lots of people don't go see those things even though they are right here.

How do you contribute to NASA? I am one of the best officers they have on this job.

Anything else you want people to know? I am single and trying to find the right woman. I am tired of eating Thornton's wife's cooking.

Earl Carmouche

Title: Landscaper, Groundskeeper and Maintenance
Length of time at JSC: One week
Hometown: Houston

What do you love most about your job? Since it is my first week here, I am just excited to be a part of the staff of JSC. I love keeping the grounds up; it's not too hard to do, but it is a challenge.

What do you want people to know about you? I think it is important that people recognize our good work and be thankful of the hard work we do.

How do you contribute to NASA? We do more than just mowing; we are also in charge of animal and pest control too.

Alosia (Louisa) Jones

Company: Sal Esparza, Inc.
Title: Master Gardener
Length of time at JSC: 3 1/2 years
Hometown: Zilliach, Austria

What do you want people to know about you? I educate the gardening staff about organic gardening. I also work with Texas A&M Extension Horticulture Program to learn the latest gardening methods, teach classes and do outreach activities such as talking to the schools about organic gardening.

How do you contribute to NASA? I want JSC to look good. I am concerned about people feeling well. I love and protect the wildlife, and I do not like to use chemicals unless it is an emergency. We are doing more mulching and using the organic materials we obtain from the leaves on site. We are also starting a composting site by using the materials we pick up from site, but the compost pit will take time.

Elva Dozal

Company: Aztec
Title: Custodian Worker
Hometown: I was born in Gral. Bravo. Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. I now live in South Houston.
Length of time at JSC: 5 1/2 years

What do you love most about your job? I love everything I do about my job.

How do you contribute to NASA? I always do everything the best that I can to make sure that the people here at JSC are happy. I am friendly with everyone and, in return, everyone is very nice to me. I like to make everything very clean and sanitary, which helps keep people here healthy.

What do you want people to know about you? I want everyone to speak highly of me and the work I do.

Anything else you want people to know? I like to spend time at home with my children and my boyfriend. I also like to go out and dance.

Aggie Williams

Company: NASA
Title: Freight Rate Specialist for Outbound Shipping
Length of time at JSC: 12 years
Hometown: Bayou Vista, Texas

What do you love most about your job? The job is fast-paced, and the customers and different carriers are fun to work with. It can be hectic, but the job keeps you on your toes.

How do you contribute to NASA? From testing equipment to transporting just about anything.

Silvia Hanagriff

Company: NASA
Title: Traffic Manager and Specialist
Length of time at JSC: 13 years
Hometown: La Porte, Texas

What do you love most about your job? Interacting with the different people in all the different organizations is really interesting.

What do you want people to know about you? We appreciate it when customers give us ample time to process their shipments. We put a lot of effort into each request.

How do you contribute to NASA? We get all items in need of transport from JSC to anywhere else in the world. We ship domestically and internationally.

Anything else you want people to know? We just do our little part of the pie – we are just part of the big picture.

Mervin Overton (left) and Thornton Lewis greet employees as they enter the Center.

Earl Carmouche makes sure the grounds are maintained at JSC.

Louisa Jones does her part to make JSC look great.

Elva Dozal keeps the newsroom clean and shiny.

Silvia Hanagriff (left) and Aggie Williams work as a team in transportation.

SPACE CENTER Roundup

The Roundup is an official publication of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas, and is published by the Public Affairs Office for all space center employees. The Roundup office is in Bldg. 2, Rm. 166A. The mail code is AP121. Visit our Web site at: **www.jsc.nasa.gov/roundup/weekly/** For distribution questions or to suggest a story idea, please call 281/244-6397 or send an e-mail to roundup@ems.jsc.nasa.gov.

Melissa Davis Senior Editor
Kendra Ceule Editor
Joanne Hale Assistant Editor
Marshall Mellard Graphic Designer

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WEBSTER, TX
Permit No. G27